

Common Cause

DEREK BOK
Chairman

CHELLIE PINGREE
President and CEO

ARCHIBALD COX
Chairman Emeritus

JOHN GARDNER
Founding Chairman

Common Cause

Press Release

For Immediate Release
May 27, 2003

Contact: Mary Boyle
(202) 736-5770

Statement of Chellie Pingree, president and CEO of Common Cause

In 1972, John Gardner, the founder of Common Cause, wrote: "Even more troubling is the fact that new outlets are coming increasingly into the hands of conglomerates which are deeply involved in businesses unrelated to the information field. How honestly will media thus controlled report news that might do commercial injury to the other parts of the conglomerate?"

What was true 30 years ago is even more of a concern today, as our major media outlets are owned by a handful of media giants. This concentration of media ownership results in Americans being shortchanged of the news and information they need as citizens. Common Cause has heard from thousands of citizens who care about media consolidation and who have just only recently become aware of this important issue, which has not been covered well by the media.

A democracy can't work if citizens are not informed about what their government is doing and about the vital issues of the day. Citizens depend on radio, TV and newspapers

for their information. If a handful of companies own all the sources of information, citizens will not get the information they need. These media giants ignore local news, shrink news staffs for profit motives, and do not care about diversity of opinion. Our democracy will be poorer if these media ownership rules are relaxed or eliminated.

For more information on media consolidation, go to Common Cause's website, www.commoncause.org.

ORIGINAL

May 28, 2003

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2003

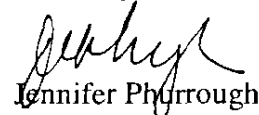
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Submission to Official Record of:
MB Docket No. 02-277; MM Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317, 00-244

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Please submit the attached document, entitled "Statement of Chellie Pingree, President and CEO of Common Cause" to the official record for dockets MB 02-277, MM 01-235, 01-317, 00-244.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Phurrough

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

071